



News from
Councilmember Todd Gloria

City of San Diego ▪ District Three

STATEMENT

For immediate release:
October 13, 2009

A Lasting Legacy for Balboa Park

Councilmember Gloria and Mayor Sanders Announce New Task Force

SAN DIEGO, CA – Yesterday, I joined with Mayor Jerry Sanders and many philanthropic and cultural leaders to announce an important step to sustain and strengthen Balboa Park as a public park. A new task force will develop a new nonprofit public-benefit entity to work with the City's Park and Recreation Department on fundraising and park management.

Balboa Park has been the jewel of our park system and the jewel of our City for nearly 100 years. It is a source of pride and inspiration for San Diegans and visitors. Ongoing investment and oversight of the park will guarantee its strong future, and the task force we announced will get us closer to that result.

This task force is the latest in a lengthy process in planning for our park's continued viability. After nine months of public hearings, the Balboa Park Committee determined that the park would best be served through the creation of a new nonprofit organization connected to the City.

To ensure we build an appropriate fundraising and governance foundation for Balboa Park, Vicki Granowitz answered the call to chair a task force to engage the public in a dialogue about a potential organization's design.

This diverse group of stakeholders will hold public meetings over the next six months. Topics to be discussed include: the relationship between the City and park support organizations; potential changes to the municipal code, council policies and the City Charter; and the structure of the new governance body. The role of the public organization will also be considered.

While the work ahead for the task force will be difficult, and the questions to answer are many, privatizing the park is not on the agenda of this task force and should not be considered at any time. I know the members share my passion for the park and my commitment that Balboa Park will always remain the property of the people of San Diego and the City will remain responsible for its operation.

I am excited for the public to participate with the task force and to see the structure it recommends to ensure the future of Balboa Park.

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Balboa Park Task Force Members

Vicki Granowitz (Chair) – Chair of Balboa Park Committee; Member of Park and Recreation Board; Former Chair of North Park Community Planning Committee; Chair of North Park Recreation Council; Public Land Use Advocate

Robert (Bob) Ames (Vice Chair) – Attorney; Board Member, Timken Museum of Art

Ron Buckley – Retired City of San Diego Planner; Background in Historic Preservation

Laurie Burgett – Member of Balboa Park Committee; Member of Greater Golden Hill Planning Committee

Carol Chang – Board of Trustees, Reuben H. Fleet Science Center; Philanthropic Experience; Fundraising Experience;

Bruce Coons – Executive Director, Save Our Heritage Organisation, Current Balboa Park User Group Member; Experience Creating and Running a Non-Profit Organization

Berit Durler – Trustee, San Diego Zoological Society; Philanthropic Experience; Financial Management Experience; Business Management Experience

Ray Ellis – Board Member, Parker Foundation; Business Management Experience; Philanthropic Experience

Aurelia Flores - Senior Counsel – SAIC; Legal Experience; Fundraising Experience, Trustee for a number of Balboa Park Institutions

Dale Hess – Former Board Member, Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy; Tourism Management Experience; Business Management Experience

Chuck Hellerich – Attorney, Luce Forward; San Diego Museum of Art Board Member; Philanthropic Experience

Dea Hurston – Member of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture; Philanthropic experience; Arts Advocate

John Lomac – Member of Uptown Planners Committee; Member of Citizens Coordinate for Century 3; Public Park Land Advocate; Public Land Use Advocate

Paul Meyer – Retired Partner, Latham & Watkins; Board of Governors, San Diego Foundation

Gonzalo Rojas –Business Management Experience; Grassroots Organizing (Social and Economic Justice, Immigration Policy); Trustee for Member Agency of Balboa Park Cultural Partnership

Dalouge Smith – Executive Director, San Diego Youth Symphony; Current Balboa Park Lessee; Experience Running a Non-Profit Organization

Judy Swink – Retired City Employee (Library); Public Park Land Advocate; Chair of C3 Parks and Open Space Committee; Mission Bay Park Committee Member